

Serial No. 10/092,871

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY:

Attached to the present amendment is a certified copy of an English translation of German patent application No. 201 04 043.3 filed March 8, 2001 with the German Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant respectfully requests priority of the attached German patent application in the present U.S. application

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) An assembly comprising a steering wheel and a vibration damping device, said vibration damping device comprising:

a damping unit arranged in said steering wheel,
an attenuation mass mounted for vibration movement in said steering wheel and connected with said damping unit,
and

a sensor for sensing a vibration parameter of the steering wheel and providing a variable output signal depending upon the value of the vibration parameter,

an electrical control unit coupled with said damping unit to actuate said damping unit,

said control unit, after actuation of said damping unit, in response to said variable output signal of said sensor changing mechanical vibration characteristics of said device such that different vibration frequencies can be damped based on the present value of the vibration parameter of the steering wheel.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said damping unit is designed such that said mechanical vibration characteristics of said device can be altered by supplying electrical energy to said damping unit.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 2, wherein said damping unit comprises a material , wherein the mechanical vibration characteristics of the material alter with said supply of electrical energy to said damping unit.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 4, wherein said material is an electrorheological fluid.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) An assembly comprising a steering wheel and a vibration damping device, said vibration damping device comprising:

 a damping unit including a hollow damping body arranged in said steering wheel,

 a mass core acting as an attenuation mass arranged inside said hollow damping body, and

 an electrical control unit coupled with said damping unit, said electrical control unit being able to alter mechanical vibration characteristics of said damping unit such that different vibration frequencies can be damped.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 9, wherein said hollow damping body is made of an elastic material.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 9, wherein said hollow damping body is ring-shaped.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said damping unit includes a hollow body made of an elastic material.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 12, wherein said hollow body is ring-shaped.

Claim 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to Claim 12, wherein said hollow body contains one of an electrorheological and magnetorheological fluid.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) An assembly comprising a steering wheel and a vibration damping device, said vibration damping device comprising:

 a damping unit including a hollow damping body arranged in said steering wheel,

 a mass core acting as an attenuation mass arranged inside said hollow damping body, and

an electrical control unit coupled with said damping unit, said electrical control unit being able to alter mechanical vibration characteristics of said device such that different vibration frequencies can be damped,

said hollow damping body containing one of an electrorheological fluid and a magnetorheological fluid.

Claim 17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 16 including a sensor for sensing the vibration frequency of the steering wheel and providing a variable output signal depending upon the vibration frequency, and wherein said control unit, after actuation of said damping unit, in response to said variable output signal of said sensor changing mechanical vibration characteristics of said device such that different vibration frequencies can be damped based on the present vibration frequency of the steering wheel.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 9 including a sensor for sensing the vibration frequency of the steering wheel and providing a variable output signal depending upon the vibration frequency, and wherein said control unit, after actuation of said damping unit, in response to said variable output signal of said sensor changing mechanical vibration characteristics of said device

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such that different vibration frequencies can be damped based on the present vibration frequency of the steering wheel.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein said hollow damping body is made of an elastic material.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 19, wherein said hollow damping body is ring-shaped.